

Anglican-Lutheran Covenant Council

Media Release

September, 2014

5 Peterborough Churches Come Together To Make a Covenant

PETERBOROUGH, ONTARIO. In the late spring of 2014, the clergy and congregations of five Peterborough churches came together to make a formal agreement of mutual ministry in the City of Peterborough, Ontario, for a two year period. This agreement, referred to as the Anglican-Lutheran Covenant, was developed in close consultation with the Area Bishop, Linda Nicholls, and involves Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church and the Anglican congregations of All Saints, St. Barnabas, St. John the Evangelist, and St. Luke the Evangelist. Inspired by a similar arrangement made between two congregations in the city of Rochester, New York, the Covenant relationship among the clergy and the five congregations will be a shared ministry of love and trust to which Christ is calling them. Building on the foundation of their existing ministries, the five churches intend to remain distinct: they will continue to be governed by their own corporations and annual vestries, and will worship in their established locations. However, the five congregations hope that this Covenant will open the door to limitless possibilities to foster new and renewed ministries which will mutually support and enhance one another, in order to better serve the needs of the Peterborough community.

The Covenant will be facilitated by a Council with equal representation from the five congregations: each congregation has appointed the Incumbent/Priest-in-Charge/Pastor and a Churchwarden, and elected two other members of the congregation. The Anglican-Lutheran Covenant Council will seek opportunities for deepening shared relationships through: advising the Incumbents/Priests-in-Charge on matters of worship, pastoral care and Christian education, as well as seeking and recommending shared opportunities in administration and property management to the Churchwardens. At the first meeting of the Covenant Council, the members established a number of working groups in order to meet the expectations of the congregations, brought forward during a series of Town Hall meetings at each of the four Anglican churches in March 2014. The initial Covenant Council Working Groups will focus on Family Ministry, Education and Training, Worship, Health, Communications, and Combined Events.

A few initiatives of the Covenant Council are already up and running, including the Covenant Choir, a special events choir made up of 28 members from across the five congregations. The Covenant Choir has already assisted at four funerals at three different churches this summer. Choir members have enjoyed the experience of assisting another choir, meeting new people, and worshipping in different spaces.

On Sunday, September 21 at 10:00 a.m., there will be a combined service of worship with the five Covenant churches held at Peterborough's Riverview Park and Zoo (1300 Water Street, Peterborough, ON); all will be welcome. People are encouraged to car pool from their own churches to ensure that there is adequate parking at the zoo. The service will be followed by a barbecue lunch catered by the Peterborough Lions Club. In the event of rain, the service will be held at All Saints' Anglican Church (235 Rubidge Street, Peterborough, ON).

Other upcoming Covenant events include:

- ✚ Sunday October 5, 2014 at 4 p.m.: Blessing of the Animals Service at St. John's (99 Brock Street, Peterborough, ON); All welcome. Animals should be on a leash or in a container.
- ✚ Sunday October 26, 2014 at 4 p.m.: Reformation Service at Christ Lutheran (463 Highland Road, Peterborough, ON); All welcome to celebrate the anniversary of Luther posting the 95 Theses on the Wittenburg Church doors and beginning the Protestant Reformation.

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